

Thank you for your comment, Ileene Anderson.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60095.

Comment Date: July 16, 2009 20:01:26PM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarM60095

First Name: Ileene  
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Comment Submitted:

July 16, 2009

Kenneth L. Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Steven Chu  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: Request for extension of time for public comment period for Scoping for Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Develop and Implement Agency-Specific Programs for Solar Energy Development, 74 Fed. Reg. 31307 (June 30, 2009)

Dear Secretary Salazar and Secretary Chu:

The Center for Biological Diversity (Center) is a non-profit public interest conservation organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy and environmental law. Because of the enormity of the region covered by the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Develop and Implement Agency Specific Programs for Solar Energy Development, 74 Fed. Reg. 31307 (June 30, 2009) (solar PEIS) and our desire to submit well documented scoping comments to facilitate the appropriate siting of solar energy zones, we requests a 45-day extension of the comment period.

The release of the notice and the "Solar Energy Study Area" maps, which highlight priority areas for utility-scale solar energy development in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah, reopened the 30 day scoping comment period. The Center previously submitted comments on the PEIS, but with the change in focus to identification of renewable energy areas, we would like the opportunity to submit much more detailed place based comments that will minimize impacts and protect the unique and precious resources of our western deserts.

Extending the comment period for scoping an additional 45 days would allow us to submit more comprehensive data, which will facilitate rapid crafting the draft PEIS for public review. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your response.

Best regards,  
Ileene Anderson  
Biologist/Public Lands Desert Director

